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## INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

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**TO:** MEMBERS, BOARD OF EDUCATION

**FROM:** ROBERT FRANCIOSI, DEPUTY ASSOCIATE SUPERINTENDENT, RESEARCH AND EVALUATION

**SUBJECT:** MODIFYING THE AZ LEARNS SCHOOL EVALUATION FORMULA

**DATE:** APRIL 12, 2007

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During the last session, the legislature amended the law governing the AZ LEARNS school evaluation process to require that the “results of English language learners tests” be included as part of the AZ LEARNS school evaluation. {ARS 15-241 (D) (3) and ARS 15-241 (E) (4)} This memo presents a proposed method to comply with the new requirement. If passed it will be part of the school evaluations released in October 2007.

The principles underlying the method proposed here are the following:

1. **Maintain emphasis on academic performance.** This proposal seeks to maintain the emphasis of the AZ LEARNS evaluation on how well students learn the state academic standards. Consequently under this proposal, most of the weight of the evaluation is still placed on a school’s AIMS results compared to performance on the English language learner test.
2. **The 2007 AZ LEARNS evaluations are a transition year.** ADE is in the process of bringing the English language assessment more into alignment with the state’s English language proficiency standards. In 2005-06 school year the SELP was used as the English language assessment. This year, the 2006-07 school year it is the AZELLA; and in 2008-09 it will be the AZELLA II. Furthermore, the information reported from the tests has been changing. Most importantly, a composite score is now being reported. As a result, the plan proposed here should be considered a transition, and the Board should anticipate possible requests for modifications in the near future.

### THE PROPOSED METHOD

The proposed change to the AZ LEARNS formula is the following:

A school will receive 1 scale score point if the percentage of ELL students reclassified during the year across all grades served is greater or equal to 30 percent.

The standard AZ LEARNS business rules will be applied to the calculation.

1. Only students present for the full academic year in the current year are included in the calculations.
2. Only groups of 16 or more students will be evaluated.

The additional points would now make 28 possible points for an elementary AZ LEARNS profile and 22 possible points for a high school profile.

Using 2006 data, 198 out of 1,111 schools would have earned a point for meeting the percent reclassified goal.